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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/619,716

07/15/2003

Kumiko Ohmori

44471-287603

7759

23370 7590 12/01/2005

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EXAMINER

AZAD, ABUL K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/619,716	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OHMORI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> ABUL K. AZAD	<b>Art Unit</b> 2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 20-36 and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 19, 37, 38 and 40-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/583,219.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-42 are pending in this Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 18, 19, 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Papineni et al. (US 6,246,981).

As per claim 18, Papineni teaches, “a method of speech recognition based interactive information retrieval for ascertaining and retrieving a target information of a user by determining a retrieval key entered by the user using a speech recognition processing”, comprising the steps of:

“storing retrieval key candidates that are classified according to attribute values of an attribute item in a speech recognition database” (Fig. 1, elements 40, 50 and 60);

“requesting the user by a speech dialogue with the user to enter a speech input indicating an attribute value of the attribute item for the retrieval key and carrying out the speech recognition processing for the speech input to obtain a recognition result indicating attribute value candidates and their recognition likelihoods” (col. 8, lines 19-67);

“selecting those attribute value candidates which have recognition likelihoods that are exceeding a prescribed likelihood threshold as attribute value leading candidates, and extracting those retrieval key candidates that belong to the attribute value leading candidates as new recognition target data” (col. 8, lines 19-67);

“requesting the user by a speech dialogue with the user to enter another speech input indicating the retrieval key and carrying out the speech recognition processing for the another speech input with respect to the new recognition target data to obtain another recognition result” (col. 8, lines 19-67); and

“carrying out a confirmation process using a speech dialogue with the user according to the another recognition result to determine the retrieval key” (Fig. 4).

As per claim 19, Papineni teaches, “wherein the attribute item is selected to be an attribute having attribute value candidates that constitute a number of data that can be processed by the speech recognition processing in a prescribed processing time” (Fig. 5, And Appendix B).

As per claims 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 18 and 19.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-17, 20-36 and 39 are allowed over the prior art of record.

***Contact Information***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents**

**P.O. Box 1450**

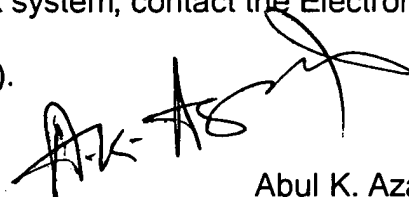
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 28, 2005



Abul K. Azad  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2654